



## A Zoo of Fish

There are many kinds of fish. They all live in water. But some fish live in rivers or lakes. Other fish live only in the deep ocean.

Some fish are tiny. You can hold many of them in your hand. Other fish are very big. One fish is very, very big. It is as heavy as three elephants! This fish is called the whale shark. You can probably guess why.

All fish swim. But do you know that some can fly? They are called flying fish. How does a fish “fly”? A flying fish moves its tail very quickly. This pushes the fish up out of the water. The fish goes high into the air. It looks as if it is flying. Then it drops back into the water.

Flying fish often swim together. Sometimes they “fly” at the same time. That is beautiful to see.

In the United States, flying fish live in the waters near California. These fish are very big. They are nearly two feet long. They are the biggest flying fish of all.

Now you know that some fish can “fly.” But do you know that some fish can walk? It’s true. One of these fish is called the mudskipper.

The mudskipper is found in Africa. It lives in muddy ponds. The mudskipper waits until the water is low. Then it jumps up onto the land. It hops around like a frog.

The mudskipper looks like a frog too. The mudskipper is brown. It has very large brown eyes. They seem to pop out of its head.



Piranha

Why does the mudskipper hop onto land? It is searching for bugs. It finds bugs and eats them. Then it goes back into the water

Some fish have very sharp teeth. One of these fish is called the piranha. A piranha’s teeth are sharper than nails!

Piranhas swim in large groups. These groups are called schools. A school of piranhas can eat a large animal. They can even eat a horse in less than a minute!

**Reading Mini-Assessment Grade 3**  
**LA.A.2.2.1 Main Idea/Details Form A**

You should not swim where there are piranhas. Piranhas can eat people. But this does not happen often. Piranhas do not attack all the time. They only attack when there is blood in the water. The smell of blood makes piranhas hungry.

In South America, people sometimes swim in water with piranhas. The people are safe. They make sure there is no blood in the water.

Some fish are called eels. Eels are long and thin. They do not even look like fish. Eels look like snakes. Most eels are less than three feet long. But some eels are about nine feet long.

One kind of eel is called the glass eel. Can you guess why? You can see through this eel!

A baby glass eel looks like a little leaf. When it grows up, it becomes long and thin. It looks like other eels. But you can still see through it!



The sea horse does not look like any other fish. It has a long face that looks like a horse's head. That is how the sea horse got its name. Of course, you cannot ride this sea horse. It is very small. It is smaller than a pencil.

The sea horse swims in a very strange way. Most fish swim headfirst. Not the sea horse. It swims standing straight up!

Another fish is named for a cow. It is called the cowfish. The cowfish is not big. It is not white, brown, or black. It is yellow and small. It does not moo like a cow. It does not have big eyes like a cow. Why is it called a cowfish? It has two horns on the top of its head!

Some fish look like frogs. Others look like snakes. Some fish look like horses. Other fish look like cows. Put them together in one place. What would you have? You would not have a school of fish. You would have a zoo of fish!

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Reading Mini-Assessment Grade 3</b> <b>LA.A.2.2.1 Main Idea/Details Form A</b></p>
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Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Directions: Read the passage “A Zoo of Fish”, and then circle the letter of the correct answer.

1. Which sentence BEST tells what the article is about?
  - A. There are many fascinating varieties of fish.
  - B. Some types of fish are named after the animals they look like.
  - C. A zoo is a good place to put fish together in one place.
  - D. Fish come in different sizes and shapes.
  
2. What is the FIRST thing the mudskipper fish must do in order to walk on land?
  - A. hop around like a frog
  - B. jump up on to the land
  - C. wait until the water is low
  - D. search for bugs
  
3. What happens AFTER the flying fish looks like it is flying?
  - A. It goes high into the air.
  - B. It drops back into the water.
  - C. It moves its tail quickly.
  - D. It looks like it is walking.
  
4. What happens to make piranhas attack?
  - A. They notice people swimming in the water.
  - B. They see large animals in the water.
  - C. They are attracted by eels.
  - D. They smell blood in the water.

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5. If this article needed a new title, which would be BEST?
- A. “Fishy Tales”
  - B. “Big Fish, Small Fish”
  - C. “Fish of All Kinds”
  - D. “A School of Fish”

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**Answer Key – A Zoo of Fish**

LA.A.2.2.1: The student identifies the following from a passage: main idea or essential message, relevant supporting details and facts, and/or chronological order or other sequence of events.

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